



NRPB presents survey on mobile radio and health

Under the title “A Summary of Recent Reports on Mobile Phones and Health”, the British National Radiation Protection Board early this year presented a survey on research results on mobile radio and health of the years 2000 to 2004. The majority of 26 observed reports come to the same results and give similar recommendations. All in all, the reports state that low-energy electromagnetic fields may potentially have slight biological effects on cells, animals and humans. However, according to the NRPB, it remains unproven that there are adverse health effects from mobile radio fields. Nevertheless, the reports recommend purposeful, high-quality research to resolve existing inconsistencies.

http://www.nrpb.org/publications/w_series_reports/2005/nrpb_w65.htm

Workshop series “Electromagnetic fields in the environment”

The Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (Ministerium für Umwelt und Naturschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz, (MUNLV) of the State of Northine Westphalia hosts a workshop series under this title to maintain a regular dialog. Based on current scientific knowledge and technological developments, the workshops shall provide as much information as possible on EMCE issues. The workshop in December 2004 e.g. dealt with the WHO meeting on electrosensitivity, sleep disorders caused by electromagnetic fields, the results of the REFLEX study, and the results of the FGF workshop “Are radiofrequency fields able to raise the risk of cancer?”

The papers can be downloaded on the internet at http://www.loegd.nrw.de/publikationen/pub_umwelt/down_umwelt/arbeitsstagungen_und_workshops/workshop-7/frameset.html.

FGF Annual Report 2004

On occasion of its Member Assembly 2005, the FGF presented its Annual Report. As usual, you will find therein all relevant information on the last financial year of the FGF: membership development, financial budget, research results, activities, cooperations and many more. The Annual Report 2004 can be downloaded at <http://www.fgf.de/fgf/jahresberichte/index.html>.

Statement on the Naila study

According to the Federal Ministry, the study presented by Naila practitioners (Eger H, Hagen KU, Lucas B, Vogel P, Voit H: “Influence of the spatial vicinity of mobile radio base stations on cancer incidence”, Umwelt-Medizin-Gesellschaft 2004(4):326-332) does not provide any evidence for an association between carcinogenesis and mobile radio base stations, as the newspaper “Frankenpost” reports (<http://franken>

post.de/nachrichten/regional/resyart.phtm?id=748645). Critique is voiced with regard to the methodological approach in selecting test persons, as well as the omission of other risk factors such as smoking and overweight. Moreover, the methods of statistical evaluation were unclear.

The Federal Office for Radiation Protection (Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz, BfS) also indicated methodological weaknesses of the study. The BfS criticizes that age, gender of the patients and other risk factors were not considered. Individual exposure assessment was also lacking, and the small sample size was problematic. The conclusiveness of the study was very limited. A replication of the study at other locations, as demanded by the Naila practitioners, would not make sense in the view of the BfS, so long as methodological problems remained unresolved. (http://www.bfs.de/elektro/papiere/Stellungnahme_Naila)

BfS: Poll results on mobile radio perception in the year 2004

As in 2003, the Federal Office for Radiation Protection commissioned the infas Institute for Applied Social Sciences to do a representative poll on the current perception of health risks from electromagnetic fields in the general population. 2500 persons from the age of 14 were selected country-wide and interviewed. Infas found out that, compared to 2003, the use of mobile phones had significantly increased and

now comprises nearly 80% of the population from the age of 14. The greatest increase was shown for older persons; younger people, however, use mobile phones more regularly and over longer time periods. The percentage of concerned people has not changed much. Mobile radio base stations remain a prevalent factor of concern in the perception of the population. However, the concern over mobile phones is much smaller than that over air pollution, side effects of drugs, the consumption of meat of unknown origin, heavy smoking and motor vehicle traffic.

The complete report is found at http://www.emfforschungsprogramm.de/www/home/forschung/risikokommunikationrisikokommunikation_vergrisiko_021_Bericht_2004_voll.pdf.

New WHO information brochure

Within the International EMF Project, the World Health Organization (WHO) has presented new information material in English on electromagnetic fields and health with regard to the following issues:

- Effects of EMF on the Environment (download at <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/facts/environimpact/en/>)
- Intermediate Frequencies (IF) (download at <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/facts/intmedfrequencies/en/>)
- Microwave Ovens (download at http://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/facts/info_microwaves/en/)



IEC: First worldwide standard for the measurement of mobile phone exposure

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has published a new international standard applied to mobile phones in the frequency range between 300 MHz and 3 GHz.

The standard specifies measurement methods for the SAR limit and harmonizes different methods. The standard deals only with measurement techniques, not with the setting of SAR limits. The manufacturers of mobile phones had voiced a wish for such a standard, Rémy Baillif, Technical Officer with the IEC, said. Above all, manufacturers of mobile phones, specialized test laboratories, regulators and security authorities will use the new standard.

The WHO – of whom the IEC is a partner within its EMF Project – welcomes the development of the measurement standard. The new international standard called IEC 62209-1 was jointly developed by the IEC, the European Committee for Electrochemical Standardization (CENELEC) and the IEEE.

http://www.iec.ch/news_centre/release/nr2005/nr0405.htm.

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Events

Current events are found on the internet at: <http://www.fgf.de/english/aktuell/events/index.html>

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